

data protection system 11 protects web server 18. Data protection system 11 seems only to protect a single web server and is not described as a switching component that monitors connection transactions. Thus, Eichstaedt's system does not describe or suggest a switching component to monitor connection transactions between multiple access requestors and multiple access providers. It follows then that Eichstaedt also does not describe or suggest denying access when a number of connection transactions initiated by an attacking access requestor through the switching component exceed a configurable threshold number.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Similarly to independent claim 1, each of independent claims 15 and 25 recites an arrangement in which a switching component monitors connection transactions between multiple access providers and multiple access requestors. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15 and 25, at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to dependent claims 10-12, 20-22, and 30-33, it is not clear from the Office Action on what grounds these claims stand rejected. The Office Action does not include them in the claims that are rejected under §102(e) on page 2, yet arguments are presented on page 3 as to why these claims are rejected. Because of their dependency on the independent claims, applicants submit that these claims are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to dependent claims 36 and 37, the Office Action suggests that these claims are rejected by Cox and Watson. However, no rejection has been presented in the Office Action relying upon these references. Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Should the Examiner determine that another Office Action is appropriate, applicants respectfully request that any new Office Action be made non-final.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

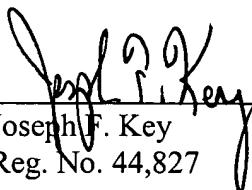
Applicant : Joseph Barrett et al.
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Enclosed is a \$450 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/27/2005



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